

## **State of the State Address**

### **Governor Haley Barbour**

#### ***Highlights***

##### **Job Creation**

The Governor said tonight he wanted to make his first year about job creation and he did it. 10,000 new jobs were created in Mississippi last year, which is more than in any year since 1999. His work with the Legislature on tort reform, workforce training improvements and keeping taxes low have contributed to Mississippi's success in job creation.

##### **Education**

The Governor's "UpGrade" proposal that he outlined tonight is clearly one of the most comprehensive education reform plans in Mississippi in years. He focuses his agenda on the classroom where it belongs, and he wants to give local communities more control over their schools to help spark innovation. That's good news for Mississippi students and parents.

##### **Budget**

The Governor outlined tonight a solid budget plan to address Mississippi's money problems that relies on saving money by making state government more efficient. He also made it clear that raising taxes is not the answer. It only hurts people's pocketbooks and threatens their jobs by damaging Mississippi's economy.

##### **Medicaid**

The Governor has worked very hard to try to save Medicaid. He pointed out tonight that for the first time ever, Mississippi will be checking every Medicaid recipient to make sure the only people receiving benefits are the truly needy. He also made it clear he wants to work with the Legislature to find a solution for Medicaid's skyrocketing costs.